



diaLOG

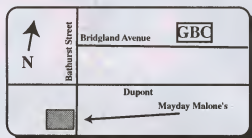
# summer in the city

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# diaLOG

Welcome to the summer issue of George Brown College's student newspaper, the diaLOG. We hope Summer in the City will give you some ideas of fun and exciting things you can do in our terrific T.O.I.

My name is Sharen Barker. This is my first assignment in my new position as managing editor of the diaLOG. I'd like to continue to uphold this newspaper's reputation for high quality. Presently, I'm attending George Brown College's 8-month full-time electronic desktop publishing program. I've used quite a few of the concepts that we've learned in class in editing the diaLOG. It's been very fun and interesting.

Perhaps you're familiar with the software used in desktop publishing. The software is quite amazing. In Quark Xpress and Page Maker, you can do layout. You arrange the written articles and advertisements as you wish. If you want to have photos or drawings, you can bring them in as well from other software programs. Maybe you didn't realize that you can draw on a computer, but it is possible! In Illustrator or Corel Draw, you use a mouse or a pen tablet to create illustrations. There are all kinds of effects such as blends, such as in a rainbow, and perspective effects that make words appear three-dimensional, and you can combine and change simple shapes such as circles and squares to make very complex and beautiful illustrations.

Photoshop is another excellent software program for working with photographs. You can scan in regular photos with a scanner, get photos off the Internet, or take pictures with a digital camera. The digital camera I've used makes my snap and

shoot camera seem to be a relic that Tyrannosaurus Rex might have used had he gone vacationing with the Brontosaurus. Inside this digital camera is a floppy disk and once you've taken a picture of any number of pictures, you can take the floppy out and pop it into your computer and voila, there are the pictures! You don't have to wait five days for processing! Not only that, once you've taken the picture, you can see the picture you took on the camera's tiny TV-like screen! What amazingly cool technology! Photoshop is a lot of fun because you can manipulate photos and create magnificent images like those you see in magazines, newspapers and posters. Please try out some of these software programs if you get a chance!

If you're not familiar with George Brown College, it's located downtown, with great restaurants, art stores and theatres nearby. George Brown has 8000 full-time students, and one of the most interesting things to me is that a lot of these students come from countries outside of Canada. In fact, almost half of Torontonians come from other countries. It's really fun to talk to people at George Brown and chat about different cultures and ideas. When I hear about different countries, it makes me want to visit those countries and see them for myself! The only trouble is, where shall I go first?!!

I hope you all have a wonderful summer! The weather forecaster says this should be a relatively unumggy, perfect summer! Don't forget to get out those barbecues and burgers and buns and soak in the rays!

## letters

I am a co-op student from George Brown Collegiate Institute. My co-op placement is at George Brown College, St. James campus in the Student Association office.

When I first arrived at George Brown, I met Dr. Janet Morrison who introduced me to the other staff and showed me around. I was then interviewed by Dr. Morrison and Kenney Fitzpatrick.

The interview went well and they accepted me as a co-op student.

I started my placement on February 23. When I started, I was curious and wanted to know what the Student Association was about and what services and opportunities they offered to students.

As I observed, I learned how to communicate with the students and their concerns. Eventually, my supervisor assigned me to work with the other staff.

During the 3 months that I worked at the student Association office, I was fortunate to work with the Women's Centre, The Dialog, The Marketing student (Sylvia), and the office manager who taught me many things.

For example, I learned about the health plan, to work with the SA lawyer, how to create posters (flyers) with various computer programs and to work as a receptionist in the SA office.

It has been a great experience working with people who are understanding, friendly, helpful and patient.

I would like to thank all the staff of the Student Association for letting me be a part of the SA office and be involved in the different organizations at the college.

Special thanks to my supervisor Kenney Fitzpatrick for his time and thoughtfulness.

Shobha Jadual

## the view from here

by Allan Stokell

Well, just as I predicted. Those vilified Reforma-Tories got re-elected in this province. I can't imagine living here for four more years, and I'll tell you why.

You think you may have escaped the wrath of these Rotweillers in blue suits, but think again. Once they have knocked off the teachers and the welfare recipients, they'll grow tired of shaking their lifeless bodies in their hungry mouth and go after you.

This province is already known as Tennessee North, so expect union-busting big time. If the Ontario Provincial Police were bold enough to hogtie a bunch of blue-rinse pensioners in full view of the cameras a day before the election in Mike Harris' riding, they will shoot you in the back if you dare protest anything. All good Nazis need their storm troopers to keep order and the Police are willing collaborators. Ever since they took on their Tennessee State Trooper hats, they have been acting like a bunch of braindead Bubbas.

Don't expect any enlightened policy coming from Queen's Park. Never expect to see another penny of that tax break because it will all go to the richest six percent of us.

Expect the "Right of 12-year-olds to bear arms" legislation to be re-introduced along with union-busting 'right to work' legislation. Corporate Canada didn't put up the money to get them re-elected for nothing, they will want a lot back in return.

Expect them to sell off our wilderness to logging companies, expect the well-run but provincially



owned liquor stores to be privatized and don't be surprised when they are bought by Magnotta Winery.

Expect more hospital closures, more dead people in the hallways

and our city parks clogged with the homeless just as our provincial parks will be jammed with loggers.

Don't you dare complain because you voted for these immoral bastards and you will suffer from their delusional stupors.

I say you will because I'm not staying here anymore. I have lived in the province since 1952 and I believe the eight years of war on the young, the old and the poor will leave us with a province of the very few very rich and greedy and the rest of us too poor to care. The damage these thugs have done is now irreparable and I am too old to wait for them to be defeated at the polls.

I have a contract that expires on May 14, 2000. On May 15, I will be on an airplane going to my new job in a more enlightened place. I invite everyone who does not share Mike Harris' vision of Tennessee North to do the same.

Then again, maybe that's what they want. Get rid of the trouble makers without having to use death squads. A kinder and gentler Augusto Pinochet.

Allan Stokell is former editor of the Dialog. He currently is Manager of Student Publications for the Student Association of George Brown College. Contact him at [allan.dialog@mailexcite.com](mailto:allan.dialog@mailexcite.com).

# Catch the Island Rays

by Shareen Barker



cross Lake Ontario is quite magnificent.

Upon reaching Centre Island, if you're a family with small children, you'll love Centreville Amusement Park. With around twenty rides and attractions, children and their parents can have fun on rides such as the carousel, rollercoaster and swan boats. Children's ride passes are \$13.50. There's also a farm with horses, ponies, "zonies" (half zebra, half

southern side.

If you enjoy beachcombing in the nude, one section of the beach is a nudist beach. It's been open for a month or so. I visited the nudists and chatted to them for a bit. I've never been to a nudist beach, so once I got over the surprise of seeing people in their birthday suits, it didn't seem as strange as I thought it might be. Although I don't know if I would have the guts to go au naturel myself!

I chatted to a few friendly people who explained to me about their organization and their philosophy. There are two groups that share the nudist beach. One is the Hanlan Beach Nudists, who are a mix of families, couples and singles. The other group is the Totally Naked Torontonians, comprised of gay men. Nudist members told me that there are roughly seventy per cent men and thirty per cent women on the beach.

In the past few weekends, 150 to 300 people have been visiting the beach. The members explained to me that they feel more comfortable and uninhibited when they wear no clothes. They told me that lewd behaviour and staring is not acceptable on the beach, and they pass out beach etiquette flyers to newcomers to advise them that privacy is paramount. The members felt that people pay too much attention to the human body and that as nudists, they are more accepting of different body types and of their own bodies. They stressed to me that nudists are very environmentally conscious and do what they can to protect the environment.

I asked them about practical aspects. When they sit on a bench, for example, they put a towel beneath them for hygienic reasons. To protect themselves from sunburn, they put sunblock everywhere! I learned that it is not painful to ride a horse in the nude, contrary to what I expected! They don't ride horses on the beach, but members get together during the



year for activities like swims, bowling and horseback riding.

There's no charge to enter the nudist beach. If you're interested in the Hanlan's Beach Nudists, you can reach them at 416-410-6333, or on the Net at [www.fc.na](http://www.fc.na).

Of course, you can also enjoy the beach in a bathing suit! The Toronto Islands are a lot of fun, with so many things to do! Ferries cost \$5 for adults and \$2 for high school students for a return trip. Ferries shuttle back and forth every 15 to 30 minutes, with the first ferry leaving Toronto at 8 a.m. and the last ferry leaving Centre Island at 11:45 p.m. Ferries also go to two other islands.

For more information on the Toronto Islands, call 416-392-8195, or surf their web page at [www.city.toronto.on.ca](http://www.city.toronto.on.ca), or e-mail them at:

[parks@metrodesk.metrotor.on.ca](mailto:parks@metrodesk.metrotor.on.ca). The Toronto Islands are a great place to get away from it all! Make a day of it and have a wonderful time!



Picture yourself lying on a golden sandy beach, with only the sound of sailboats, bicycles and seagulls drifting by in the breeze. It is such a relaxing spot that you think you must be on a deserted island in the middle of the Pacific. But when you walk to the other side of the island, and see the striking skyline of Canada's largest city only a twenty-minute ferry ride away, it dawns on you that you must be on the Toronto Islands. Green parkland rolls across the island like a large free golf course. People are enjoying picnics, walking, bicycling, rollerblading, boating, pony riding and hopping on amusement park rides.

According to island employees, most people come to enjoy picnics and barbecues and to relax with their family and friends. It's a popular place for families and young people. The Toronto Islands can be easily reached by taking a ferry from Harbourfront at Bay Street and Queens Quay. The view of Toronto as you

pony), sheep, rabbits, chicken and geese.

There are lots of paved paths crossing the parkland, where you can enjoy strolling, jogging, bicycling, rollerblading and riding on special four-wheeled bicycles built for four. You can rent two-wheel and four-wheel bicycles. But, in my opinion, the best thing to do on Centre Island is to go canoeing. You can rent a canoe, rowboat or pedalboat for \$15 an hour. I find it so pretty and peaceful to paddle along the quiet streams, passing small islands, and watching the wildlife.

The last time I went, I saw egret-like birds, red-winged blackbirds, small fish, swans, and Canada geese, and I was amazed to see a beaver swimming past our canoe, with his head half out of the water. My friend and I paddled past the yacht club and enjoyed seeing the many colourful sailboats with names like "Zucchini" and then we paddled into the harbour area and admired the Toronto skyline. Someday, I'd like to paddle all around the harbour and go past the downtown shoreline, but I've never seen a canoe doing that! The waves in the harbour are a bit rougher, so perhaps a canoe is not the way to go! You can also paddle past Algonquin Island and see pretty little houses, where people live throughout the winter.

If you like sports, you might want to check out the islands' volleyball courts, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, frisbee golf course and wading pools and beaches. The beaches are on the



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# Downtown St. James

by Jim Charteris



**I** like most people reading this paper, I once was a relative newcomer to this part of Toronto. A number of years ago when I first started attending classes at George Brown, I started taking short walking tours around the neighbourhood. Soon, I was being asked by my classmates where they should go and what they should see. Soon I was walking the environs like a tour guide holding an umbrella to gather his flock of punters. What follows is an incomplete guide to the area known as Lower Rosedale, St. Lawrence, and sometimes St. James. I am sure that as you walk the tour you will be able to add a few comments.

This area was originally known by the First Nations people as Toronto, meaning the meeting place. It was re-named York by Lord Simcoe, the British Governor. Originally the lakeshore was at The Esplanade. The greed of civic politicians and railroad operators means that now we are sitting just under a kilometer from the lake.

Any tour of St. James should start with the cathedral at 65 Church Street (King and Church). You can hear the melodious church bells ringing from far away. Built first in 1797 originally as a frame church by devotees of the Church of England, it is now an Anglican cathedral. Designed by Frederick Cumberland (who had both Frederick Street and Cumberland Avenue named after him), for many years it was the tallest structure in the city, at 306 feet. Once it was much closer to the lake and maritime navigators could see it for miles. Even today it is Canada's tallest church spire. The stained glass in the nave tells the story of the Catholic church in England. I recommend that you take the cathedral tour before we continue.

As you leave St. James, walk out the front door and walk directly across the street to the City of Toronto Sculpture Garden. As I was writing this, there was a space ship there, but I have seen everything from polar bears to vending machines in the space. Walk straight through and you will have to make a

decision. Once you reach Front Street, if you look right you will see a small red brick triangular building in the middle of a Y-junction. That is the Gooderham and Worts building (also known as the flatiron building because there is a similar one in New York City). A left turn will take you towards St. Lawrence Market and much of the rest of the historic neighbourhood.

This area houses numerous establishments that might interest the visitor and neighbour alike. A block or two to the west is the Hummingbird Centre, known for concerts, opera, and ballet. Just east of Church Street on the lower level is C'est What, one of Canada's best pubs. Further east again still on the south side sits one of Canada's treasures. The St. Lawrence market first opened for business in 1831 and included a market, shops, and a police station. Check out the market gallery on the second floor containing interesting exhibits from the archives of the City of Toronto. Watch the times as it is only open from Wednesday to Saturday and the market is closed Sundays and Mondays.

From here, walk back up to King street along Jarvis Street. On the south west corner of King and Church sits one of the true gems of Canadian 19th century architecture. Directly across the road is another Greek revival building. After a stop at Arts on King, (south side, just east of Jarvis) mosey past the Little York at King and George. Once one of the town of York's best commercial hotels, it is now one of the city's best coffee and book shops. We are now in front of George Brown College's St. James campus. If you walk up George Street and turn east on Adelaide, you will find Toronto's first Post Office.

Almost everywhere you go in this area you will be brushing elbows with history. I have often heard people say that this area is the centre of the universe because everything is close at hand. I believe if you spend a day exploring this neighbourhood you will see why everyone agrees that Toronto is the most culturally diverse city on the planet.

# Harbour Front Happenings

by Almeida Quim

**T**oronto's Harbourfront is one of my favourite summer destinations in the city. Although I like to get out of the city on those humid muggy weekends, more often than not I'm confined to the urban landscape of our beautiful city.

As I don't have a car or know of friends who have access to summer cottages up north, I often find myself idling away the weekends down at the waterfront. One of the things I like to do is to simply stroll along the pier and people watch. I will look out on the lake and watch with envy as the various sailboats, charters, and watercraft float through the calm waters of Lake Ontario. There is a wonderfully soothing and calming effect on my mental state when I am surrounded by water and sunny skies.

If I'm in the mood to get some exercise, I will often rent a bike and hop on the ferry and ride from Hanlan's Point to Ward's Island, dodging the rollerbladers along the way and perhaps stopping by the nude beach. If I really feel like going the distance, I will pedal my way from Harbourfront to the Leslie Spit.

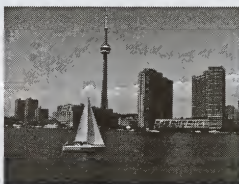
You may ask what there is to do at Harbourfront besides watching sailboats and window shopping at Queen's Quay Terminal. In fact, the activity schedule at Harbourfront is full of visual art exhibitions, concerts, plays, readings, festivals, and so on.

I will point out some of my favourite events. I like to watch the artists at the Craft Studio to their stuff. The Craft Studio is a unique institution that offers emerging craftspeople the opportunity to

improve their skills. You can watch them while they blow glass, throw clay on a wheel, silk-screen fabric or make jewelry. If you see something you like, such as a pair of eye-catching earrings, a nice ceramic bowl or whatever strikes your fancy, you can purchase it at the craft shop nearby.

I also enjoy going to the Power Plant to check out the latest in contemporary visual art. There is also the York Quay Gallery, which has more publicly accessible art and craft exhibitions, with special emphasis on the art of photography. As far as music goes, the list of festivals is endless. There is the du Maurier

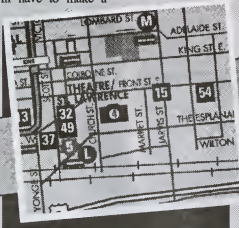
Downtown Jazz Festival happening June 25 to July 4, with several concerts, workshops and jazz film screenings taking place at Harbourfront. Other musical highlights include the Great



Canadian Blues Festival, happening July 16 to 18 and Ritmo y Color: A Latin American Arts Festival, happening July 9 to 11.

If you like theatre, you can check out the various plays presented by Souleppere Theatre Company. You can see the play version of "A Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams, playing September 3 to 17. Other plays on the schedule include "Platonov", "Endgame" and "The Play's the Thing."

If you are an opera fan like myself, don't miss the Altamira No-Load Opera Concerts, happening August 17 to 19. They're three spirit-lifting evenings of arias and overtures presented by the Canadian Opera Company. For more information and a detailed listing, visit [www.harbourfront.on.ca](http://www.harbourfront.on.ca).



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# OUT BACK ?

# Welcome to The Ce

## Three Toronto neighbourhoods:

by Boni Barter

**a**s a student who is experiencing a negative cash paradigm (sounds better than "chronically broke") I don't tend to favour experiences that depend on cover charges, ticket costs or other fiscally demanding overhead. Since I also rarely (if ever) imbibe, that cuts out a great deal of entertainment that is based on liquid satisfaction. Consequently, for this column I have decided to give my readers a window-browser/slash/cheap meal and shopping guide to my favourite places in Toronto.

Very first on my list is **LITTLE INDIA** aka: THE INDIA BAZAAR. This is located on Gerrard Street East between Coxwell and Woodbine. I used to live in this neighborhood and still adore the place. Firstly, I drool just THINKING about it! The smell of all the spices and tandoori barbecue cause an instant salivatory response similar to Pavlov's dog.

If any French clothing designer had an ounce of taste anywhere besides in his mouth, he'd be checking out these storefronts for ideas. Paris designers make all women, (short of those built like tubercular boys,) look like wedgie-wearing musk oxes. East Indian designers, on the other hand, can take the most Rubenesque woman, and with yards of gossamer fabric and exquisite sari, dress, long skirt, pantalon or long-short styles, make her look like every man's fantasy of Eastern exotica. Since dressy sandals have been designed by these cultures for thousands of years, they can't be outdone and the price is reasonable for some pretty detailed designs. The costume jewelry is sold at "dollar store" prices and comes in geometrics and colours that don't exist elsewhere on the planet (other than at the factory of course). The artistic blending of beautifully hued clothing in the store windows make all those Yorkville shops look bland and homogenous in comparison. The silks and crepes Pierre, are just too, too fabulous Dawling!

Groceries in this neighborhood are mercifully inexpensive. Basmati -the best rice in the world- can usually be purchased for around seven dollars for eleven pounds. Beat that, Loblaw's...

Even if you can't afford to buy a single thing or dine there, the storefronts are still worth the trip.

My next favorite little neighborhood is **LITTLE VIENNA** aka: LITTLE CHINATOWN at

Broadview and Gerrard. (Sounds like a Gerrard theme is shaping up, here.) I personally favour it over Chinatown because it is less crowded and since it is smaller, a more suitable training ground for those of us entering the Couch Potato Olympics.

Dishes, cutlery and handy nifty kitchen gadgets are plentiful and affordable here.

Vegetables, chicken and seafood are really reasonable. My favourite veggies come from this nifty lady

funky, furry leopard trim pillbox hat. Personally, I cannot hold myself back from buying from people who are more interesting than their product. That is why my money cannot make it to WalMart and malls.

The seafood palaces around this corner are a 16-hour-a-day droolathon. Many of them are open after the bars close so if you are really having a hot date with someone you want to impress, after the club closes, take her/him

remarkable tendency to skyrocket after the re-naming ceremony that isn't the reason I like the place. Yeah, yeah, the meat, cheese and grocery prices are unbeatable but that's still not what I like. And yeah, yeah, it has cafes and bars and now we're getting a little closer to why I like it. I like it for the PEOPLE. Most cats are more original than the Village People and are funkier New Yorkers. There's Tim, who draw your picture and frame it your cigarette package to buy himself the blue plate special a beer. Not only that, he sings along and knows the words to practically every song ever written in the fifties, sixties and seventies and knows enough gags to write for the Air Force. There's at least two exceptional Native poets that I know of. There are all kinds of mega-original musicians including Brian Coker (The Nationals) who is the only guy who plays slide guitar with ALL his left-hand fingers encased in slides. Everybody who's on their way up or down (or both!) winds up at some point, jamming in the Market. I've had a waitress serve me in a cafe then ask me how I like the art on the walls (there was one I adored, it I'd had \$700 I would have snapped it up) and after I looked around and

admired it, blushing told me that it was her work. Only in the Market...


Anyway, if all ya have is bus any one of these places is worth a look-see. I love 'em all for very different reasons but I try to go them often!

Enjoy Your Summer Holidays

Boni Barter is a full-time student at George Brown College and is habitual in many Toronto neighbourhoods. You can e-mail her at [dialog@canada.com](mailto:dialog@canada.com)

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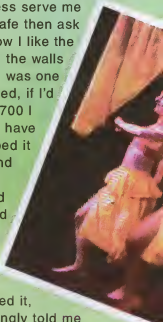


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who doesn't even have a store—she just sets up shop on some tables on the south-west corner of Gerrard and Broadview outside the restaurant there. She and her hubby(?) hand pick the produce off the docks and she sells it for so much a "basket", instead of weighing it. For example, you can get what would be probably equal to two pints of snow peas, for a dollar. She heaps them up in the dilapidated plastic basket then puts them in a brown paper bag for you. She's out there summer and winter, and in the winter she wears this

out for lobster or crab. Most of them are the kinds of places where you walk up to a big aquarium and tell the waiter, "Yo! Garcon! I want that one—no! Not that one—That one! The winner!" Then the waiter will mosey off with your wriggling crustacean and return with it half an hour later, steamed with ginger and onion and looking so much more appetizing after the process.

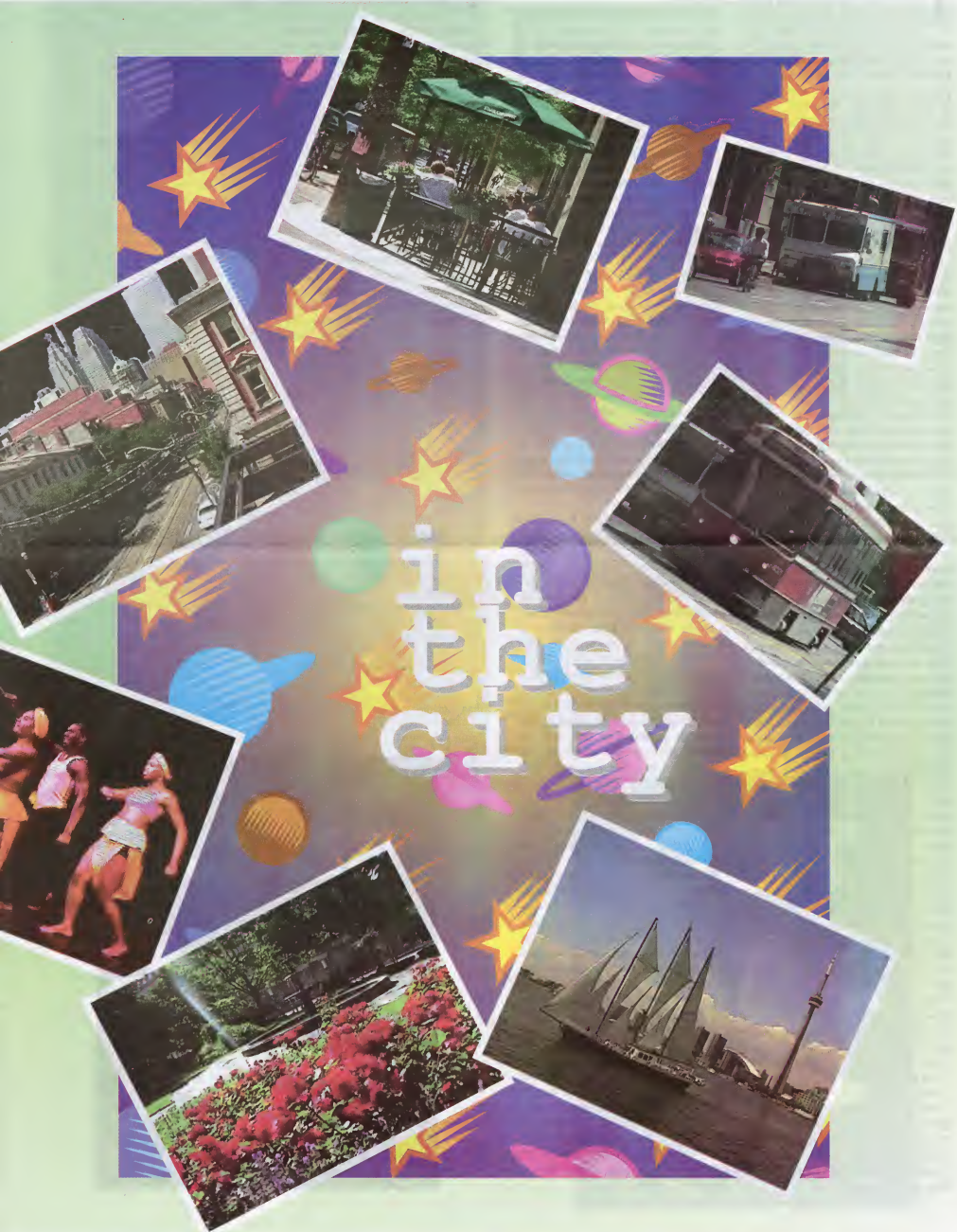
Finally, last but far from least is **KENSINGTON MARKET**. Now sure, stuff is cheap (although I find the second-hand clothes get tagged "retro" and the price has a





# Centre of the Universe!

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in  
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city

# The 'Rageous Rickshaw Ride

by Oleg Kremiansky

**t**he longer I live here, the stronger I feel that you never know who exactly you're going to meet in this city the next day, the next corner, or at the next door. Every single thing seems to be so ordinary at a glance. We have four seasons—rather predictable and foreseen. (Drivers, though, grumble that in reality, there are only two seasons, winter and construction. Whatever...) There are different neighbourhoods in the city—some are mostly prosperous, others are not. Finally, there are all kinds of trouble and troublemakers, of course. And you don't expect changes overnight. Even over a month. You don't expect something unusual to happen at all. All the same, something always is hiding behind all this apparently predictable stuff.

Indeed, one day when I was coming home from George Brown College, I noticed someone who, in my mind, was supposed to be an integral part of life somewhere in India or Japan. But he was right here, at the corner of King and Jarvis. In front of my own eyes. A well-built fellow dressed in a New York Rangers hockey jersey had stopped at the red light. No, he was not a pedestrian; he was standing among cars. Nor was he a bicyclist, even though he can be considered as a mode of transportation, absolutely harmless to the atmosphere, by the way, and relatively inexpensive.

This guy was obviously a real rickshaw or "jinrikisha," which means "human-powered vehicle" in Japanese. I got used to seeing these "vehicles" on my TV screen running on the streets of Bombay or Jakarta. Truly, I never thought I could meet one of them in Toronto, carrying alongside the skyscrapers a carriage with two laughing ladies, presumably tourists.

As the light turned green, he started moving before I had a chance to ask him any questions. Why, buddy?! Why do you need to do this? Does being a horse not somehow hurt your pride as a human being? Why don't you apply some of your other skills, instead of carrying sometimes rather fat passengers on your back through busy downtown intersections?

It turned out I didn't understand their definition of "pride".

"Our work is our employment, man," Bob, a Torontonian rickshaw driver, told me near the Skydome.

"This is a job like any other. Besides, I also like it."

"It's a tough physical job, I guess," I said.

"But, I'm strong," answered Bob, and showed me one of his arm muscles.

"Well, I see," I agreed. "And how much do you make?"

"Five hundred bucks a week."

"Not bad."

"Not at all."

"But you work in wintertime as well, right?"

"Sure, the hottest time is Christmas Eve. Who are your customers? Tourists?"

"Yeah. They're mostly tourists from the States and from Europe..."

"And do you carry them and at the same time tell them about Toronto as a tour guide does?"

"Exactly, I tell them all I know about the city."

"What is the funniest story related to your rides that you can share?"

"Hmmm...once some drunk tourists fell off the rickshaw while I was pulling it, so I've got to be careful."

"Thanks, and take care. Good luck with your next passenger!"

Bob offered rides to people, but nobody took him up. Since nobody responded positively, he decided to leave the SkyDome and disappeared into the horizon. He was searching for customers who would be willing to pay \$3 a block just to get to their destination. And he'll find them sooner or later, I'm pretty sure. A rickshaw driver is a kind of wolf.

## A little history

Rickshaws were used widely in the Orient but were largely superseded by the pedicab—a rickshaw driven by bicycle. The name of its inventor remains uncertain. In a sense, all rickshaws are modern. They were introduced into Japan around 1870 by missionaries, who presumably based them on the old French eighteenth-century brouette. A rickshaw boy could trot about seven miles an hour and was the possessor of a high-class set of leg muscles.

A rickshaw driver has a well-respected and well-paid job in today's Japan. Like in Toronto, Japanese rickshaws serve tourists. Unlike in Toronto, it's really a part of the tradition,

which is thoroughly kept up and guarded. And you don't see a lot of rickshaws on Japanese streets, as one of my buddies who lived in Japan for six years told me.

The use of rickshaws has spread to other Asian countries where manpower is plentiful and cheap. However, in some of the countries like Pakistan, for instance, rickshaws are prohibited by law. Why? In Pakistan, this business is considered as an exploitation of human beings by other human beings.

## A little about prices

I have no idea how much they charge customers in Japan or anywhere else, but I am glad to inform you, guys, about some local prices.

The Skyscraper Tour, for example (a 30-minute tour of Toronto's tallest buildings) is \$50. The Yonge Street Tour (thirty minutes as well, down the world's longest street) and the Chinatown Tour (thirty minutes) are \$50 each. That's the same price they charge for the 30-minute "Bar District Cruise of the City's Hottest Nightclubs". You are asked to pay \$70 for the Theatre District 45-minute tour, \$90 for a one-hour romantic waterfront cruise and \$300 for the "Cadillac" tour (a 4-hour tour of all of the above in style).

Not a long time ago, I noticed a third Torontonian rickshaw (The total number of them today is around thirty to forty. Maybe even more.) This time the rickshaw driver was a nice-looking girl. Most likely a student. Moreover, it seems to me that I have met her at George Brown. Maybe? Maybe not?



# diacyCLE

by Jake the Biker

**S**o it's Summer in the City, and I write the bike column. The editor tells me that our audience, besides the usual college dweebs, is an urban one. Those who live downtown, near our four campuses and those visiting our city. Cool. A word to the wise: **WATCH OUT FOR BIKES.** If you are one of those Yanks in your air-conditioned Oldsmobile, keep the fuck out of my bicycle lane! If you are a street person, please don't spit onto the street without looking and if you're a motorist, damn your soul in hell! In the last 10 years there were more than 13,000 collisions with motor vehicles resulting in 38 fatalities. Not one was a car or truck driver.

I'm not bitter. I'm not bitter. Shit... I'm bitter. I ride my bike every day of the year, except when there is more than 20 centimetres of snow, and I know I can't save the planet, but damn it, I don't want to die under the wheels of some car piloted by some cretin who is criminally inattentive, drunk or both.

Keep in mind that bikes are totally non-polluting. They are powered by a human being, and as such may deem it inappropriate to pull to a complete stop at a stop sign. I average 30 kilometres per hour. If I stopped and put my foot down at every stop sign, I'd be in the minority, because from my observation cars seem to make as many "rolling stops" as bikes. Not only do we take the abuse from motorists who seem to think they are traffic cops, we have to try to survive those motorists from Markham who have never seen a bicycle, and are too involved in their petty, money-grubbing life to ever consider anything that is further away than the end of their nose.

Recently an insurance company surveyed the skills of Canadian drivers. Guess what? Toronto drivers are the worst in the country! That means Torontonians are probably the worst in the world, since I could not imagine that any other group would be worse than Canadian drivers who are blind,

stupid, and criminal in their response.

The Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) recently published a warning for members. It might be smart to review what they had to say. Motorists should look for bikes, especially before turning right (very smart). Don't underestimate the speed of a bike. (Count on 30-35 kilometres per hour for serious bikers...these are car speeds!). Leave enough space when passing bicyclists. (I am constantly forced off the road!)

## BIKE LANES

We live in an urban area. Bicycle lanes are everywhere but motorists seem quite oblivious to them. I bike between the campuses all the time. I go from St. James to Nighthingale then up to Casa Loma. Most of the time I am on bicycle lanes but motorists seem totally oblivious to them. They park across them, endangering bikers' lives by forcing us into traffic. They pull into them at will when making turns and especially around the University of Toronto, vendors hawk hot dogs, ice cream etcetera while blocking the lanes. Recently the police went on a tear ticketing riders who made rolling stops in that area. I live in a country that does not require citizens to carry identification unless in control of a motor vehicle. My name is John Dow and I live at 1 Blue Jay Way, and I'm sticking to that story.

## SECURITY

The next issue we bikers have to deal with, I owned cars for thirty years and never had one stolen. I've had two bikes stolen at St. James. One was locked up right in front of the window to the Dialog office. I don't ride trendy bikes...just the usual crappy mountain bike. I have been bringing my bike into the Dialog office because campus security can't guarantee the safety of my bike. Now some shithead says I can't bring the bike in and I have to park it outside. If you have concerns about this, e-mail me. We may be crazy, but we are not stupid!

Bike on.





# Magical Bus Tour

by Shareen Barker



have you ever thought you'd like to travel around different parts of Ontario and check out what's between Vancouver and the Bay of Fundy? But did thoughts of icy cold buses, with passengers staring out of blue-tinted windows, and tour fees with astronomical prices that would have your grandchildren still paying decades later, dance through your head? Well, let them dance no more.

Further Still is a tour bus company in their third year in Toronto. They offer fun, affordable trips for the young and young at heart. Perhaps, you've always wanted to check out Niagara Falls and its nearby sights or go camping in Algonquin Park. Maybe you've always dreamed of going to Halifax or Vancouver and seeing our magnificent country. Further Still can take you there.

Craig Somers, who leads the expedition to Halifax, says that Further Still likes to go slow and get the most out of life and their trip destinations. Their philosophy is to "go after your heart and not your wallet, through simple, unhurried itineraries, flexibility, group dynamics and budget prices".

Recently, I took Further Still's Niagara Falls Day Trip and had a great time! The \$35 trip is from Toronto to Niagara Falls and back. At 10 a.m. sharp, around 15 of us hopped into "Bertha", a brightly-decorated school bus with a miniature disco globe hanging from the ceiling. Over 80% of Further Still's passengers come from overseas, so I chatted to people from Scotland, Australia, Japan, Brazil and Denmark. Two people sitting near me found out that they both came from Aberdeen, Scotland and they'd never met before! Small world!

Our first stop was a winery, where they specialize in ice wine. An ice wine producer described to us the tricky process of making ice wine. The ice wine grapes

can only be picked when the temperature is -10 degrees Celsius. Ice wine grape pickers pick the grapes on cold winter nights for if it were sunny, the grapes wouldn't be completely frozen. The fingers of the pickers soon freeze and it is the hardest pickers that survive the night! The

Niagara area produces some of the best ice wine in the world.

We had a chance to try the ice wine, and to me it tastes like very sweet fruit juice. We all enjoyed a small glass, and some people bought the \$40 bottle! We reached Niagara Falls, and strolled along the Niagara River. Most of us decided to go on "Maid of the Mist", the boat that travels almost under the falls itself. We paid our \$10.60 and quickly slipped into our Maid of the Mist rain ponchos. It was my first time on the boat and it was much more exciting than I thought it would be.

As we approached the horseshoe part of the falls, the breeze turned into a gale, the mist became a torrent and the waves frothed as if we were storming through a Cappuccino. I could hardly keep my balance with the rain and wind whipping maniacally through the boat. It was a lot of fun, like being in a simulated typhoon, but much better and au naturel! The strange thing was that you couldn't see the actual falls when you were near them because of all the water falling like rain!

After our wet and wild adventure, we admired the peaceful view of the falls from the top. Our tour leader gave us interesting details about the falls and the various people who had survived going over the falls in a barrel. One little boy even went over accidentally with no protection whatsoever and miraculously survived!

I was beginning to get hungry. Our tour leader promised that we'd have lunch later, so I grabbed a snack, but I think we should have stopped for lunch around noon, as our late 4 p.m. lunch had some of our stomachs grumbling. We headed back and stopped to see the whirlpools forming at the bottom of the river. We heard how people used to cross on a tightrope from the Canadian to the American side! We also stopped and saw

the impressive Brock Monument, honouring General Brock who prevented the Americans from crossing into Canada in 1812. We all got along well as a group and had fun chatting. Except for me, they all were travelling across the world. Some were staying in Canada for a week or two, while a few were in Toronto for a few days, and then were off to Australia or the U.S. or Europe. They were a happy bunch, and I saw Niagara Falls through their eyes as travellers seeing one of the world's wonders for the first time. I've seen Niagara Falls maybe twenty times, but it was nice to see it from a different perspective!

The sightseeing done, we stopped at a youth hostel and had a nice barbecue lunch for \$5. Good barbecued chicken and good company, what more could you ask for?! We returned to Toronto, the school bus seats seeming a bit bumpier than before! I talked to a guy from Scotland, and he mentioned that all his friends in Scotland had gotten married early and settled down, but they were missing out on the chance of seeing the world and experiencing it for themselves. I agreed with him that people should get out of the Toronto area and see Canada and the rest of the world with their own eyes and not let their lives pass them by!

Further Still offers great tours at reasonable rates. Besides the Niagara tour, they also offer 3-day trips to Algonquin Park for \$99 (with a suggested budget for food and accommodation of \$60). If you've always wanted to see this magnificent country of ours, you might try the East Expedition, a 15-day trip from Toronto to Halifax and back, for \$589, plus a suggested

\$175 food and accommodation fee. Or would you rather go west? Check out the West Experience, a 21-day trip from Toronto to Vancouver, or Vancouver to Toronto, for \$889, plus a suggested \$305 food and accommodation fee. The two trips across Canada offer a 25% discount for students. Further Still

also has trips to Ottawa to go whitewater rafting. In addition, they can take you to concerts or any destination you and your friends would like to go. This summer, they'll be going to concerts such as Woodstock, Edgeland, and Roger Waters. Further Still has taken people on private parties, staff parties, residence parties, New Year parties, trips to the U.S. and even a fifteenth anniversary party!

Further Still likes to provide alternative, adventurous tours, where people can relax and get to meet new people. Craig Somers, who started the company, explains, "We definitely make it to the places we say we'll make it to, the big places like Banff. But in between, there's always so much to see in Canada. Whereas the Greyhound buses go from A to B, we're zigzagging. That's where Canada is, those little things in between." Somers also describes the fun, social atmosphere. "As the group comes together, it's such an experience. There's no place to hide, who you are is who you are and you're accepted. Travellers are different from people who don't travel. They're far more open-minded and they're far more accepting and they're just nice people to be around so you can open up to them and feel comfortable with them. A lot of people say, 'I don't tell my friends these stories'. When the trips are over, everyone is crying and they're great friends."

If you're interested in these tours, you can contact Further Still at 1-877-371-8747, or check out their web site at [www.furtherstill.com](http://www.furtherstill.com). Have a fantastic trip!



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# your summer album guide

by George Vajna, Entertainment Editor

## AIDA - A MUSICAL BY ELTON JOHN AND TIM RICE

The success of the Lion King proved that Elton was capable of writing music for other sources than just for himself. Songs like "Circle Of Life" were great, but when he performed the song himself, he did not do it justice. The songs Elton sings himself on Aida are the most derivative tracks. As with the Lion King, the best tracks are those performed by others. The star turnout is extremely large, and one wonders why they agreed to perform this sappy material. The lyrics for some of the songs do not make sense, taken out of context. Still, Elton is capable of writing beautiful music. Tina Turner's "Easy as Life" is great, as is James Taylor's mellow "How I Know You." Like Father, Like Son, by Lenny Kravitz is the standout track.

GRADE: C+

## BLONDIE - NO EXIT

After a 17 year absence, Blondie reunite, but they should not have bothered. Over the years, Debbie Harry's vocals have become tattered like Marianne Faithfull's, adding maturity and grit to the music. The first single "Maria" is catchy. The ska flavoured "Screaming Skin" and "Night Wind Sand" are also okay. When Blondie tries not to sound like Blondie, is where the album falls flat. The rap portion of the song "No Exit" ruins the song's otherwise catchy melody, and "Happy Dog" tries to sound like ZZ Top unsuccessfully.

GRADE: C

## SARA BRIGHTMAN - EDEN

Sarah Brightman is the ex-wife of Andrew Lloyd Webber. While they were together, he gave her large roles in his musicals, the most famous being her lead role in Phantom of the Opera. On her first North American release she adds a little class to the easy-listening genre. "Eden," the highlight of the album, is a lush ballad, with electronic flourishes. "Anytime, Anywhere" which adds lyrics to Albinoni's "Adagio In G Minor," and "Scene D'amour" are both hauntingly beautiful. The album is docked half a grade for the pointless cover of "Dust In The Wind," an Italian version of the overplayed Titanic theme, and "The Last Words You Said," a horrid song written and produced by Richard Marx.

GRADE: B-

## B\*WITCHED - B\*WITCHED

This essentially is The Corrs meets The Spice Girls. It was inevitable that Rivedance would somehow blend with dance music, but with the exception of some double entendre lyrics, this is pretty fluffy stuff. "Oh Mr. Postman" tries to be an epic ballad, and almost succeeds. "We Four Girls" has a cutesy charm. The best song is the single, "C'est La Vie." Hey ladies, "I'll show you mine, if you show me yours."

GRADE: C

## CASSIUS - 1999

This French duo is responsible for the huge club hit Cassius 1999. This kind of music is terrific for the dance floor, but why anyone would want to listen to it in their homes is beyond me. Then I thought to myself that Fatboy Slim is very similar, and I listen to him all the time. Suddenly, it occurred to me; Fatboy Slim is good, while Cassius isn't.

GRADE: D

## COLLECTIVE SOUL - DOSAGE

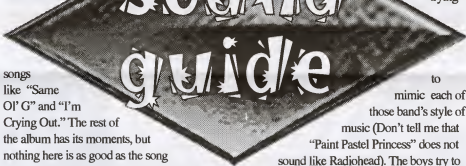
Collective Soul has also entered the technological age with synth swirls and drum loops. It's funny, the bands that rejected electronic music are now embracing it. The first single, "Run," from the Varsity Blues soundtrack, is a simple, but catchy pop song that may be one of their finest moments. "Heavy" is extremely catchy as well, but radio felt the need to add more guitars, making the song sound heavier. The rest of the album is unexciting, and "Dandy Life" written and sung by the band's guitarist is awful.

GRADE: C

## GENUWINE - 100% GENUWINE

The main flaw with Genuwine's new album is that it sounds exactly the same as The Bachelor. Timberland adds the same routine production, knowing that what worked last time, will probably work again. And it does work on it.

GRADE: C



songs

like "Same Ol' G" and "I'm Crying Out." The rest of the album has its moments, but nothing here is as good as the song from The Bachelor. On "So Anxious" he sings about being a "sexaholic." If only I had those problems.

GRADE: B-

## KULA SHAKER - PEASANTS, PIGS & ASTRONAUTS

If producers ever wanted to make a sequel to the musical Hair, Kula Shaker would be the perfect band to do the music. These guys pretend that the 80s and 90s never existed. "Great Hosannah" and S.O.S (not the Abba song) prove that point. "Mystical Machine Gun" is a good first single and "Shower Your Love" is good Beatles pop. "Last Farewell" combines Santana with Pink Floyd and Deep Purple.

GRADE: B-

## JULIAN LENNON - PHOTOGRAPH SMILE

Although Julian Lennon's vocals are not as strong as his father's, his vocals are hauntingly similar. Photograph Smile is the most

Beatlesque album of his career, unfortunately he does not have his father's sense of melody. He showed great promise on his last album, Help Yourself, but regrettably North America ignored that album. It took him 7 years to release Photograph Smile, but it seems like it should have taken him longer. Nothing exceptional here, except for the great "Day after Day," and "Cueified" which uses Middle Eastern sounds effectively.

GRADE: C

## THE ROOTS - THINGS FALL APART

The limited addition of the CD features 5 different jacket covers, my favourite being the hand holding the ace of spades. Another bonus is that the booklet explains how and where the songs were written and what inspired them. The lead off single "You Got Me," which features Erykah Badu, is a great song with a great video. "Adrenaline" is also excellent, and "The Next Movement" is good. Many songs have bass, drums and piano, as revealed on the jazzy "Dynamite."

GRADE: B-

## SILVERCHAIR - NEON BALLROOM

As he is getting older, Daniel John's vocals are starting to sound similar to Thom York, or is that Kurt Cobain. Oh wait, when he sings quiet, he sounds like York, when he sings loud, he sounds like Cobain, while trying

to mimic each of those band's style of music (Don't tell me that "Paint Pastel Princess" does not sound like Radiohead). The boys try to show their maturity by adding strings, and an occasional ballad. This maturity is apparent on tracks like the good "Emotion Sickness" and "Miss You Love."

GRADE: C

## SPARKS - PLAGIARISM

Many of the Sparks albums have been re-released domestically in North America for the first time. They've been releasing albums for over 25 years. Plagiarism is an album that updates their songs with a more modern sound, with all the songs essentially given a dance beat. Songs like "Pulling Rabbits Out of A Hat" are updated nicely, while songs like "Beat the Clock" sound almost identical to the originals. Jimmy Somerville, who guests on "The No. 1 Song In Heaven," nearly ruins the song. The Sparks are very quirky and unusual, and may not be to everyone's taste, but those bored with the music scene right now may want to give them a chance.

GRADE: B-

## BRITNEY SPEARS - ...BABY ONE MORE TIME

What "hit me baby, one more time" is supposed to mean is still unclear. The album comes with cute pictures of her inside, and multimedia features, which allow you to watch her video. I feel really guilty giving an album like this, but the album starts off pretty strong, with the first five songs being fairly solid. And we know we have entered the technological age where we no longer need to write letters, you just have to "E-Mail My Heart." Stay far away from the tepid cover of Sonny Bono's "The Beat Goes On."

GRADE: B

## KIM STOCKWOOD - 12 YEARS OLD

It's funny that it would be the dance remix of the song "12 Years Old" that would become the hit. The slight song, with its cliched lyrics, needed that extra boost to make it more ear friendly. The rest of the songs by this fellow Canadian are essentially a lite-weight Chantal Kreviazuk. The standout tracks are "Soap," "My Fear My Friend," and "Puzzle Girl."

GRADE: C

## VARIOUS ARTISTS - MUSIC FROM THE MOTION PICTURE VELVET GOLDMINE

Unfortunately, David Bowie would not give away the rights to his songs so that they could be used in the motion picture about the 70s Glam era. The soundtrack proves that his contributions were not needed. Many of the tracks are from the first and best Roxy Music album. Thom York from Radiohead does a great job at mimicking Bryan Ferry's vocals in the cover versions of the songs from that album. The band Shudder To Think, recreate the sound of the era quite well, as do Pulp. Great originals by Lou Reed, Brian Eno, and Roxy Music are also included.

GRADE: B

## ROBBIE WILLIAMS - I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU

Formerly a part of the boy-group Take That, (he left before the group hit it big in North America) Robbie Williams went solo to huge success in Europe. He still has to make a name for himself in North America, and this satisfying album might just do it. Williams plays almost every different style of music on this album, so there is something that will appeal to everybody. "Millennium," the first single in our country, makes good use of the "You Only Live Twice" sample from the James Bond film. The great "Karma Killer" sounds like 70s Bowie and "Strong" mimics Oasis quite well. "Jesus In A Camper Van" and "She's The One" are also highlights. Clever use of Neil Tennant's back-up vocals on the Pet Shop Boys' "No Regrets." Like Oasis, Robbie Williams has not only used his mouth (his latest release, The Ego Has Landed, which combines the best of his two albums, is aptly titled) but good music to achieve his success.

GRADE: B

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